



Lassen Volcanic National Park

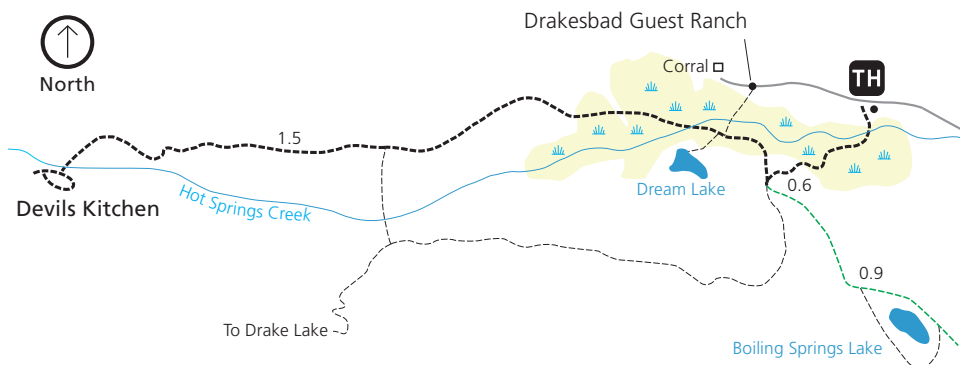
Devils Kitchen Trail Guide



Steam rises over Hot Springs Creek

Level of Difficulty:	Moderate
Round Trip Distance:	4.2 mi (6.8 km) from trailhead 3.4 mi (5.2 km) from Drakesbad Guest Ranch
Round Trip Time:	2-3 hours
Elevation Start/Gain:	5700 ft (1727 m) / 440 ft (134 m)

Discover gurgling mudpots, hissing fumaroles, and steaming streams amid the cracked yellow and red mounds of dissolved rock at Devils Kitchen. From the Warner Valley Trailhead, the first 0.6 mile passes through a meadow over small footbridges and boardwalks before reaching the intersection of Boiling Springs Lake and Drake Lake. Bear right at the intersection to continue to Drakesbad Meadow. The trail continues alongside Drakesbad Meadow before crossing the upper meadow over a series of boardwalks. At the edge of the meadow, the trail climbs gradually into forest and continues through a series of rises and dips 0.9 mile before crossing Hot Springs Creek. After the creek crossing, the trail climbs to a short loop through the Devils Kitchen hydrothermal area.



Directions to Trailhead

From Highway 36 in Chester, follow Feather River Road just over a half mile to a junction and veer left onto County Road 312, following signs for Drakesbad. Enter into the park at 14 miles and continue another mile to the self-pay entrance station just before the Warner Valley Ranger Station. Continue a mile pass the Warner Valley campground to the trailhead on the left. A vault toilet, bear-proof trash can and picnic tables are available at the trailhead. Please note that parking at Drakesbad Guest Ranch is reserved for guests only.

Are You Ready to Hike?

Safety is *Your* Responsibility

A few suggestions to help you stay safe:

- ☐ Bring water and extra food
- ☐ Wear sturdy boots
- ☐ Bring a flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Use sunscreen
- ☐ Carry extra layers for warmth
- ☐ Take breaks often
- ☐ Tell someone where you are going and when you will return
- ☐ Check the weather forecast on-line or at the visitor centers
- ☐ Finish your hike before dark



Special Considerations

Winter Conditions can persist through the summer months, especially in the forested second half of the trail. Wear proper footwear and consider use trekking poles to help maintain balance.

Hiking at High Elevation can aggravate preexisting medical conditions. Know the effects of altitude. Carry plenty of water, take breaks often, and do not exceed your abilities.



Knee and ankle injuries are the most common visitor injury

Watch your footing • Consider using trekking poles for balance • Wear appropriate footwear

How Do I Safely Explore a Hydrothermal Area?

To help improve your level of safety, it is extremely important to **stay on boardwalks and established trails** in hydrothermal areas. One unfortunate visitor learned this lesson the hard way when he wandered beyond the barriers and safety warning signs. His foot broke through a thin crust hiding acidic boiling water and was severely burned. His injury required an emergency evacuation and a series of follow-up treatments and doctor visits.



Stay on established trails to avoid injury

"It feels like I put my leg in a flame"

- Visitor injured at Devils Kitchen



In Case of Emergency, Dial 911

The closest emergency phone is at Drakesbad Guest Ranch. Warner Valley Ranger Station is not staffed at all times.



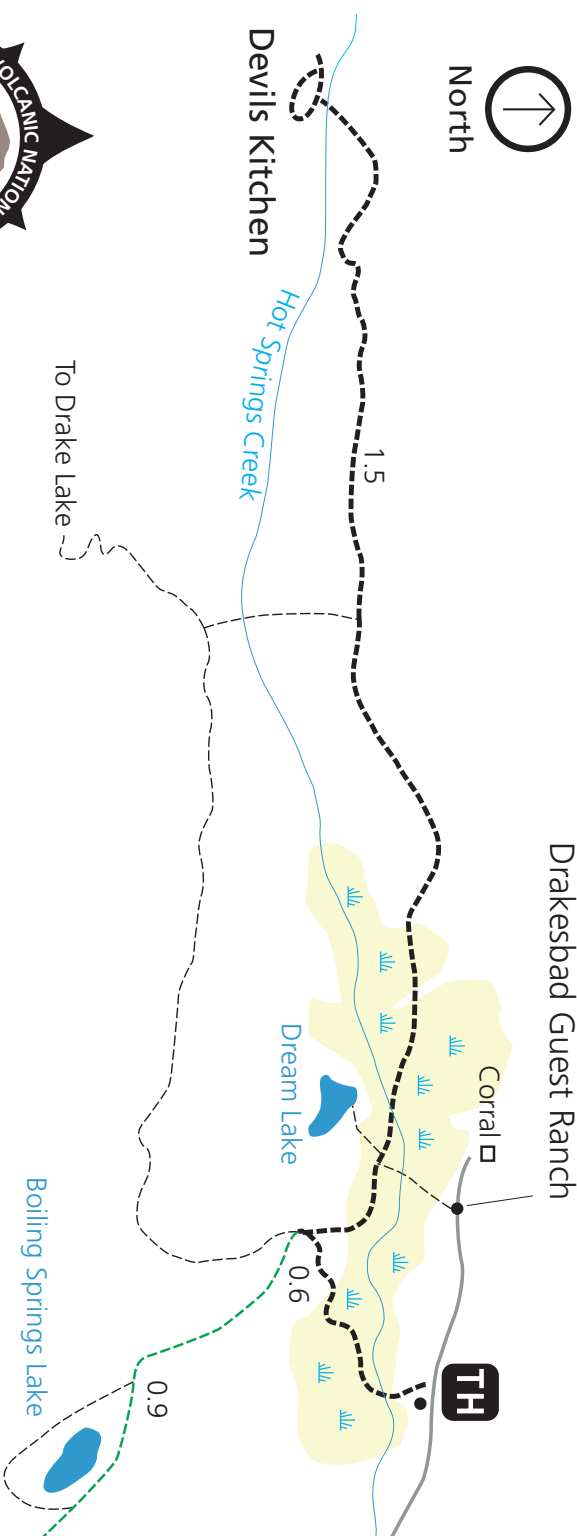
What Should I Do if I Encounter a Bear?

Black bears have been sighted frequently in the Warner Valley area. Avoid potential bear encounters on the trail by making noise to make your presence known. Be particularly careful near streams, and when vegetation or terrain limits visibility. If you encounter a bear, do not run. Slowly back away or detour around the bear if it is not aware of you. Report any bear encounters to a park ranger.



Hikers pass through upper Drakesbad Meadow

Devils Kitchen Trail Map



Explore Safely